

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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SERIAL NO.:

FILED: Herewith

TITLE: PROCESS FOR A UNITIZED MAT TO FACILITATE GROWING PLANTS

Preliminary Amendment: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-28. (Canceled) Please cancel Claims 1 through 28.

29. (Original) A process for producing a unitized mat to facilitate the growth of plants, comprising the steps of:

extruding a first polymeric material layer;

laminating a second polymeric layer to said first polymeric material layer; and

selectively bonding said first and second polymeric material layers so as to create fluid conveying passageways between said first and second polymeric material layers defined by bonded and non-bonded areas.

30. (Original) The process of Claim 29, further comprising:

vacuum forming fluid conveying passageways into said first polymeric material layer.

31. (Original) The process of Claim 30, wherein said steps of vacuum forming and selectively bonding are performed after the step of extruding approximately at melting temperature of the first and second polymeric material layers.

32. (Original) The process of Claim 29, wherein said step of selectively bonding the polymeric material layers comprises laser bonding the polymeric material layers together .

33. (Original) The process of Claim 32, wherein said step of laser bonding the polymeric material layers comprises laser bonding the polymeric material layers together with a plurality of lasers.

34. (Original) The process of claim 32, further comprising:
introducing a pressurized fluid within the non bonded areas to inflate and open the fluid conveying passageways prior to use.

35. (Original) The process of claim 29, further comprising:
introducing a pressurized fluid within the non bonded areas to inflate and open the fluid conveying passageways prior to use.

36. (Original) A process for producing a unitized mat for facilitating the growth of plants, comprising the steps of:
extruding a first polymeric material layer,

selectively printing an adhesive on said first polymeric material layer, and
laminating a second polymeric material layer to said first polymeric material layer
to create fluid conveying passageways between said first and second polymeric material layers
defined by bonded and non bonded areas.

37. (Original) The process of claim 36, further comprising:

introducing a pressurized fluid within the non bonded areas to inflate and open the
fluid conveying passageways prior to use.

38-41. (Canceled) Please cancel Claims 38 through 41.